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Vanilla Bean Culture In Seychelles Islands

Following is the conclusion of the article that has been running in the Bulletin for a week or so past on vanilla bean culture in the Seychelles Islands:

SUMMARY.

The foregoing account of vanilla cultivation, being the outcome of experience gained in the Seychelles alone, and there chiefly in the hills may need many modifications to adapt it to different circumstances pertaining to other lands, and, indeed, possibly may be of little use for such. For instance, in a drier climate irrigation might be needed, and it would not be necessary with a reliable, sufficient annual dry period to prepare vines for flowering by checking sap flow in certain branches, as it is in this colony. This is not found necessary in certain districts where the rainfall is not such as to keep plants growing continuously, for they stop growing of themselves and come into flower without coaxing. Again, under less favorable growing conditions the vines would need more nutriment and attention to stimulate growth.

These and similar considerations which will suggest themselves to the reader may serve to save a brief summary from appearing too dogmatic.

The following conditions of climate, method of growing, etc., appear to the writer to be most favorable to the successful cultivation and handling of the vanilla crop.

Climate.—With shade temperature ranging about 80° F., never much above or below it, and a humid, still atmosphere; a rainfall of 80 to 100 inches or more, evenly distributed through ten months in the year, the remaining two months being dry, with occasional short and very light showers—the ten wet months for continuous luxuriant growth, the two dry ones to check it and bring vines into flower.

Soil.—A skin of rich vegetable mold resting on a porous substratum. Failure

ing that, with the above climate, vanilla should do well on any soil if the roots are kept covered with decaying vegetation.

Situation.—Moderate slopes. Shade.—Small-leaved trees to let checked sunlight through.

Plants.—Cuttings 10 to 12 feet long of growing shoots, which should not cease growing if planted after the dry season, but go straight on and flower fully in two years.

Planting.—Either in line on posts and bars, or on shrubs of suitable size and leaves, at the risk of wholesale destruction from disease, or plants well kept apart, each on its own support, so that any vine showing signs of sickness may be removed before infecting its neighbors.

Culture.—Plantations to be gone through bimonthly; shoots on the ground looped up; climbing branches brought down; decayed leaves, etc., laid on roots for manure when needed. Preparations for flowering according to climate.

Cropping.—Flowers to be pollinated in forenoon, preferably such as will hang clear and grow straight pods; quantity regulated according to man and vigor of each vine, but not such as to hinder the start of new growth for more than two or three months. Pods should be gathered every other day.

Curing.—The slower the better, beginning in a heated room at about 110° F., for some days, then in a cooler one, 90° to 100° F., finishing at ordinary temperature; humidity of air kept down if need be by charcoal braziers.

Marketing.—Qualities and lengths kept distinct, made up in packets of 50 pods, and neatly packed in tin holding about 12 pounds each.

Labor.—Cheapness and intelligence are of the greatest importance in vanilla production. The cultivator must himself have his eyes everywhere; the best of labor known here deteriorates quickly if left to itself.

XX

A BOY IN SPRINGTIME.



"Hi jing! Barefooted ag'in! I'll bet old Rockefeller hain't no hap- per'n I am now!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Few Words

about

Pain-Killer

A prominent Montreal clergyman, the Rev. James R. Dixon, Rector St. James and Hon. Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, writes:—"Permit me to send you a few lines to strongly recommend PERRY DAVIS' PAIN-KILLER. I have used it with satisfaction for thirty-five years. It is a preparation which deserves full public confidence."

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MEMORIAL PARK IS SHOWING PROGRESS

A meeting of the executive committee of the McKinley Memorial Park was held in the Bank of Hawaii yesterday afternoon. At that time, the letter from the trustees of the Bishop Estate, assenting to the counter proposal of the committee that the park site be made to consist of fourteen acres instead of ten, as at first proposed, was read. The cost of the entire block of land was placed at \$5000. The committee, by resolution, then directed the payment to the trustees of that sum and securing a receipt for the same. This is to permit the making of the deed in the name of any association which it may be deemed to ask to maintain control of the park in the future.

The treasurer stated that there was now in his hands and subscribed a sum very close to \$10,000. Some of the heavy subscriptions had not yet been collected, but it is understood that the work of securing this money is to be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, so that the making of the park will not be long delayed.

The sub-committee submitted plans for the work of filling in the ground and securing a surface adapted to the purposes of a park, and this matter was thoroughly discussed. There were on file several bids for the carrying out of the plans presented.

John G. Rothwell resigned as chairman of the Honolulu Committee, to which he had been appointed by the executive committee upon the resignation of Henry Waterhouse. Mr. Rothwell would not have accepted the position, but he was placed there at a meeting at which he was not present, and so could not resign until yesterday. He explained that his resignation was due only to the fact that he has so much on his hands that he cannot give to the matter all the attention it deserves.

On motion, the resignation was accepted, Mr. Rothwell agreeing to continue to act with the committee, especially in the matter of securing a chairman to take up the work.

Secretary Henry E. Cooper was added to the committee.

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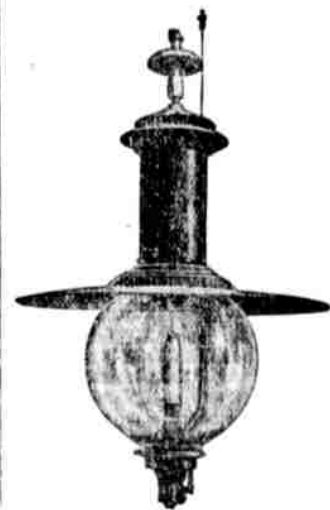


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